

Early Reviews for *Crossing the Street in Hanoi*_____

What a delight it is to read Carol Wilder's perceptive book on Hanoi. Her aim is to put a human face on what was an inhuman experience and she succeeds wonderfully. . .She is to be congratulated for achieving such a fine balancing act, effectively getting her to the other side of the street. I hope readers will enjoy Carol Wilder's book as much as I did.

-- from the Foreword by **William Logan**, author, *Hanoi: Biography of a City*, Alfred Deakin Professor and UNESCO Chair of Heritage and Urbanism, Deakin University Australia

Carol Wilder's illuminating *Crossing the Street in Hanoi* enriches us on every page with its seductive mix of storytelling, philosophy and insights into both Vietnam and the United States. Wilder's chapters knit together into a pattern, and hers consists of compassion, personal daring, and thinking outside the box about both the United States and Vietnam. The current relevance of *Crossing the Street in Hanoi* is that Wilder manages to cast light, and unfortunately a good deal of shadow, on the long American wars of choice in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Wilder performs a magic trick by both charming a reader with her evocations of today's vibrant Vietnam and jarring us with the torments of what she calls "the undead war" that remains full of "secrets and lies" told not only by Americans but also by Vietnamese to themselves. She deftly mingles history with moving autobiographical reflections. Wilder's crowning achievement, and the reason for her book to attract a wide audience, is that once and for all she unifies the three designations of Vietnam: the war, the era, and finally the country itself.

-- **Peter Davis**, director, Academy Award-winning Vietnam documentary
Hearts and Minds

With thousands of books in print on the war, is there anything new to say about Vietnam? Readers of this book will readily agree that there is. Carol Wilder's remarkable journey—a mix of sometimes painful memoir, astute literature and film criticism, and illuminating oral histories of Vietnamese and American veterans—makes the connection between the American War in Vietnam and the Vietnam War in America as lucid as any book I have read.

Wilder's original account of the May 4th killings interrogates both the semantic treatments that appeared in the press reports of the time and the accompanying, and usually flawed, cartographic illustrations that often appeared with the stories. Indeed, her chapter on Kent State should be mandatory reading for any would-be reporter. Like good teachers everywhere, Wilder is a close observer of people. She keeps careful accounts and, in this book, asks the right questions.

--**Thomas M. Grace**, *Kent State: Death and Dissent during the Long Sixties*, and one of the May 4, 1970 shooting victims.

A fine read, Carol Wilder's *Crossing the Street in Hanoi* is intriguingly entertaining and historically informative, as it takes the reader on a journey weaving the past with Viet Nam's present. Meanwhile, it tastefully but painfully exposes the reader to the egregious effects of US savagery intentionally inflicted on the Vietnamese people and their ancient culture, while revealing much about US American culture as well. Having "served" in Viet Nam myself as part of the U.S. killing machine, I could not put this read down. *Crossing the Street in Hanoi* asks whether we are willing to embrace the painful process of redemptive transformation?

-- **S. Brian Willson**, *Blood on the Tracks*

I admire this book from its catchy title to its last page. Wilder has unified in its diversity a long, wide and deep range of experiences relevant to Vietnam and especially to that country's involvement in the American War. Her instinct for analysis is sure, and her prose style is winning. The photographs alone would justify buying the book. I recommend it unreservedly.

-- **John Waite Bowers**, *The Rhetoric of Agitation and Control*,
past president National Communication Association

I hope the potential audience of *Crossing The Street in Hanoi* realizes how special and unique this work is. Few books in my experience have been so original in method, so sophisticated in analysis, so thorough in scholarship, so plain damned fun to read, laughing through tears.

-- **Henry McGuckin**, *Memoirs of a Wobbly*, Professor Emeritus,
San Francisco State University

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